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BRIERLEY HILL
URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL



REPORT

on the Works of the

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

for 1962

P. J. C. WALKER,
Medical Officer of Health

C. H. CRAWFORD,
Chief Public Health Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendent



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BRIERLEY HILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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T. WELLS

BRIERLEY HILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

P. J. C. WALKER, M.B., CH.B. (Birmingham), M.R.C.S. (England),
L.R.C.P. (London), D.P.H. (London), F.R.S.H., F.R.I.P.H.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:

* ** C. H. CRAWFORD, M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

* ** S. V. ROBINSON, M.A.P.H.I. (Appointed 1/1/62)

Housing and Cleansing Inspector:

* ** H. P. GRAYSHON, M.A.P.H.I.

Senior District Inspector:

* ** G. SHAW, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H. (Resigned 30/11/62)

District Inspectors:

* A. HINGLEY, M.A.P.H.I.

* G. L. HORNE, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

* D. B. SUTHERLAND, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Student Public Health Inspector:

M. BASTERFIELD (Appointed 23/7/62)

Student Cleansing Inspector:

W. BENTLEY

Veterinary Surgeons:

D. HOWIE, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M., F.R.S.H.

E. B. DAVIES, B.V.Sc., M.R.C.V.S.

Meat Inspectors:

*** H. B. McNAUGHTON

*** W. N. RICHARDSON

*** † R. BROWN (Appointed 13/8/62)

Analyst:

A. HOULBROOKE, M.Sc., F.R.I.C., County Buildings, Stafford.

Deputy Analyst:

G. B. THACKRAY, D.Sc., F.R.I.C., County Buildings, Stafford

Clerical Staff:

MRS. J. LAWLEY (Chief Clerk)

MRS. M. G. ANDERSON, MRS. M. L. PRICE,

MRS. J. WRIGHT, MRS. P. DUNN

* Inspector of Meat and Other Foods, Royal Society of Health.

** Diploma for Smoke Inspectors, Royal Society of Health.

*** Hold Certificate of the Inspection of Meat, Meat Products and Fish, granted by the Royal Sanitary Association of Scotland.

† Hold Certificate of the Inspection of Meat and Other Foods granted by the Royal Sanitary Association of Scotland.

BRIERLEY HILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1962**

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BRIERLEY HILL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report for the year 1962.

I have to report that the general health of the population has remained satisfactory throughout 1962 in spite of severe climatic conditions which were beginning to be experienced towards the end of this year.

Several factors have contributed to the maintained health of the district, but I am of the opinion that the major contribution towards this has been the policy of the Council in respect of the housing and rehousing of the inhabitants of the district. Housing standards play an important part in the maintenance of public health, whether this be in respect of personal physical health and hygiene or even mental health. It is pleasing to pay my tribute to the Council in respect of their support given to this attitude in spite of the difficulties which have beset them administratively speaking and for which there has been no real solution.

The year 1962 saw the completion of the first twelve months under the "Priority Scheme" in respect of rehousing individuals whose applications were supported by medical certificates from family doctors or specialists. It is pleasing to record also the co-operation extended to the work in this category by the Council through its Housing Allocation and Maintenance Committee and its Housing Department, and I must specially record my thanks to the valuable contribution they have both made towards the health of our community in this respect.

A disturbing note is the vastly increased number of suicides which have occurred in the district, and from a detailed study of the social background there appears to be no one single connecting factor between them. The frequency of suicides is a matter which is usually unrelated to any prevailing social policy, although it is interesting to note that at this time the incidence of unemployment was increasing.

The general activities of the department in respect of sanitary work, including smoke abatement, have continued throughout the year, and whilst perhaps in respect of the operations under the Clean Air Act 1956, these have not been quite so extensive as we would have liked, the beneficial effects of this Act are now being appreciated by a sizeable section of the community, and although these are somewhat offset by economic considerations, it is gratifying to note that the acceptance of alternative means of consumption of fuels is accepted by the general public, and that the harvest of good health will slowly increase in abundance as the years proceed.

Old customs and habits die very hard however, and the Public Health Inspectorate are to be congratulated in their successful efforts to promote health education in this respect.

Several minor outbreaks of food poisoning occurred in the district during 1962. No undue alarm should be felt, but rather that this is a reflection of the general pattern of food poisoning throughout the United Kingdom which has shown an unwelcome increase over recent years. Fortunately, the occurrence of food poisoning is rarely accompanied by any fatalities, but there must be a general improvement in the standards of food handling and hygiene if we are to avoid an extensive and prolonged outbreak of this disease. Very often food poisoning of a bacterial origin is caused by a momentary lapse in an individual's personal hygiene. The outbreaks are difficult to confine, and very often cannot be traced to any one individual source. It is only by increasing the public's awareness of the principles of hygiene, especially those engaged in the production and handling of food, that the situation can be improved, not only in this district but in the nation as a whole.

In respect of malignant disease, it is with pleasure that I record that there has been no material increase in deaths in this category, and that the number of deaths from lung cancer have remained stationary. It must be stated that the recent anti-smoking propaganda, with which we have been assailed, has to a certain extent paid dividends, even though evidence of cigarette smoking is as abundant as ever. In my opinion the sale of cigarettes to an individual under the age of 16-years should be prohibited, and it should be made an offence punishable in law for any individual of 16-years of age or under to be seen smoking or to be in possession of cigarettes. There is no doubt that the seeds of lung cancer are sown at an early age and the habit of smoking if also acquired at an early age is thereby more difficult to eradicate.

There have not been any outbreaks of infectious diseases within the district during the year, and it is especially pleasing to record that there have been no cases of poliomyelitis recorded.

1962 saw the advent of Oral poliomyelitis vaccination, and under the auspices of the County Council an extensive campaign of vaccination was commenced in April 1962 involving the whole of the district. The response was excellent, and it is possible now to estimate that something like 85% of the eligible population has been protected.

The "smallpox scare" fortunately left the district unscathed although a note must be made here of the adverse effects of press publicity in so far as that an appreciable amount of public hysteria was manifest. Two direct

contacts were isolated within the district and fortunately this procedure proved to be all that was necessary. Vaccination figures, however, were unduly increased and one feels that the whole situation was magnified out of all proportion, largely due, I think, to some ill-advised comments from the mass media of communications.

It is anticipated that the fluoridation of our water supplies will receive the necessary stimulus from the Ministry of Health in 1963. Whilst I do not wish to dwell at length on this subject, it is interesting to contemplate that even at this early stage we are being subjected to active propaganda by the minority groups who are using every means at their disposal to discourage this procedure.

The department will be playing an active part in any educational moves which are necessary to present to the public an accurate and factual statement of the situation. The policy of the Council has always been that they support the procedure in principle. They are satisfied that it is in the best interests of public health.

I have to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council and the Public Health Committee for their co-operation and understanding during the year, and to express my gratitude in respect of the points mentioned above which they have, in my opinion, materially contributed to the health of this district.

My thanks are due to the staff of the Public Health Department for their willing help and assistance during the year, often at a very little notice or warning. Staffing difficulties have beset the department from time to time but have not materially interfered with the progress of the work being done.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

PETER J. C. WALKER.

Medical Officer of Health

SECTION A

VITAL STATISTICS

Registrar-General's estimate of population (mid 1962)	57,430
Area (in acres)	5,851
Rateable Value	£711,868
Sum represented by Penny Rate 1962-63	£2,883

Extracts from Vital Statistics:

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Live Births: Legitimate	1034	544	490
Illegitimate	31	11	20
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1065	555	510
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth Rate per 1,000 population ..	18.54
Area Comparability Factor	0.94
Standardized Birth Rate	17.42

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Still Births: Legitimate	15	9	6
Illegitimate	1	—	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	16	9	7
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still Births)	14.80
Rate per 1,000 population (Still Births)	0.28

						<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	526	291	235
Death rate per 1,000 population	..					9.16		
Area Comparability Factor	..					1.30		
Standardized Death Rate	..					11.90		

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	17	15.96
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Births ..	16	15.47
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Births ..	1	32.26

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years)	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	96
Deaths from Tuberculosis	2

Analysis of Vital Statistics:

Births

The Standardized Birth Rate of 17.42 compares with 16.04 for last year.

Deaths

The Standardized death rate of 11.90 is slightly higher than that of 11.75 for 1961. The death rate per 1,000 home population in England and Wales is 11.9.

The causes of death, as per the Registrar-General's return, are appended below.

TABLE 1

Disease	1962		Total
	Male	Female	
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	—	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	4	4	8
Malignant Neoplasm—Lung, Bronchus	22	3	25
Malignant Neoplasm—Breast	—	6	6
Malignant Neoplasm—Uterus	—	4	4
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	29	24	53
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	—	—
Diabetes	2	4	6
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	33	41	74
Coronary Disease—Angina	63	26	89
Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	9	11
Other Heart Disease	21	26	47
Other Circulatory Disease	6	14	20
Influenza	2	—	2
Pneumonia	8	15	23
Bronchitis	46	12	58
Other diseases of Respiratory System	4	2	6
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	3	5
Gastritis, Enteritis, and Diarrhoea	—	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	—	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	3	—	3
Pregnancy—Childbirth, Abortion	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	3	3	6
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	22	29	51
Motor Vehicle Accidents	4	1	5
All other accidents	6	4	10
Suicide	6	4	10
Homicide and operations of War	—	—	—
All causes	291	235	526

The most frequent causes of death are Heart Disease (all forms), Cancer (all forms), and Intracranial Vascular Lesions. These account for 337 deaths.

Population

The number of births exceeded the number of deaths by 539.

Infantile Mortality

The Infantile Mortality Rate of 15.96 compares with that of 15.69 per 1,000 live births in 1961.

Appended are tables showing:—

- (A) Infantile Mortality for the Urban District of Brierley Hill.
- (B) Congenital Conditions attributed to, or causing, death in Infants under the age of one-year within the district.

TABLE II (A)

Age	Congenital Conditions		Pre-maturity		Broncho Pneumonia		Asphyxia		Total under 1-year		Total under 4-weeks	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1 week	3	4	4	2	—	—	—	—	7	6	7	6
1-2 weeks	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2-3 weeks	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3-4 weeks	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-2 months	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2-3 months	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—
3-4 months	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
4-5 months	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-6 months	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
6-7 months	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7-8 months	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8-9 months	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9-10 months	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-11 months	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11-12 months	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	3	5	4	2	2	—	1	—	10	7	7	6

TABLE II (B)

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of Live Births</i>	<i>Congenital Conditions</i>	<i>Non- Congenital Conditions</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Rate per 1000 Live Births</i>
1950	769	7	12	19	24.71
1951	749	9	11	20	26.70
1952	762	15	9	24	31.51
1953	773	9	8	17	21.99
1954	744	10	8	18	24.19
1955	666	11	6	17	25.53
1956	710	10	5	15	21.13
1957	834	4	9	13	15.59
1958	881	7	16	23	26.10
1959	833	4	13	17	20.41
1960	917	5	10	15	16.36
1961	956	5	10	15	15.69
1962	1065	8	9	17	15.96

Maternal Mortality

No maternal deaths were recorded during the year.

SECTION B**INFECTIOUS DISEASES****Diphtheria**

No case of Diphtheria has been reported during the current year.

Immunisation against Diphtheria is performed routinely by family doctors in the area, and also at Infant Welfare Centres, and School Clinics of the County Council. School entrants are also immunised by arrangement with the Staffordshire County Council Local Health Authority.

Smallpox:

Appended below is a table showing the number of vaccinations performed within the district as a percentage of live births.

TABLE III

<i>Year</i>	<i>Live Births</i>	<i>Vaccinations</i>	<i>% of Live Births</i>
1954	744	117	15.72
1955	666	109	16.36
1956	710	165	23.24
1957	834	225	26.98
1958	881	345	39.16
1959	833	325	39.02
1960	917	418	45.58
1961	956	454	47.49
1962	1065	519	48.73

Early in January 1962 we received notification that there had been a case of smallpox occurring in the West Midlands, and, unfortunately a contact of this case had developed smallpox whilst being employed in Local Government. Upon the immediate isolation in hospital of both cases, a full surveillance was made by myself with the help of the County Council medical staff, and the duties of Tipton Municipal Borough were temporarily taken over during this period.

A search for the contacts involved six separate local government districts, and finally, five or six days later, the primary contacts were traced and afforded smallpox vaccination. It is pleasing to record that no further cases developed apart from the two primary cases. Primary contacts were isolated from their places of employment until all danger had passed.

I estimate that a total of more than 1,500 individuals were interviewed by the staff involved, and approximately 50 primary contacts were determined. However, as stated in my preamble to this report, unwelcome publicity accrued and people demanded vaccination on a scale hitherto never experienced. Much valuable time was lost in dealing with individuals clamouring for smallpox vaccination, but each individual had no contact, even of a secondary nature, with the original case. Family doctors were pestered beyond belief and found themselves for some considerable time unable to continue with the normal work of their practice. Finally by the middle of February 1962 we were able to pronounce that as far as the West Midlands were concerned all immediate danger had passed.

It is easy to engage hindsight, but certain morals I feel must be constructed from this unwelcome occurrence of smallpox. First, every endeavour must be made to maintain a high state of smallpox vaccination in this country. In spite of what some authorities say, it is the only proven method of limiting the outbreak of smallpox and the only means of protection. This is necessary because of many reasons, not the least of which is the ease of international travel from areas where smallpox is endemic. Secondly, there is the necessity to quell public panic, and this can only be done by a full and adequate relationship with the press. It is rather disappointing to have to record that statements from official bodies were still not forthcoming and often conflicted with the views of the individuals on the spot. The maintenance of good public relations during an epidemic is of paramount importance, and I cannot say with any truth that this obtained during the incidents described above.

The final lesson to be learned from this occurrence is that it is not an opportune time for various eminent men to air their individual views upon the properties of smallpox vaccination: there is a time and place for doing this, and I feel that it should not be situated in the middle of an investigation of an outbreak of smallpox.

Tuberculosis;

35 notifications were received as compared with 53 for the previous year; there were 2 deaths.

Appended below is the state of the Tuberculosis register at the present moment, together with a table showing age and sex distribution of new cases, deaths and recovery, of Tuberculosis during 1962.

I also append a set of comparative tables showing the total notifications of and deaths from Tuberculosis during the last 25-years.

TABLE IV
TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

	<i>MALES</i>		<i>FEMALES</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
Number of Tuberculosis cases on Register at the 1st January, 1962	290	44	239	56	629
New Notifications	12	1	12	2	27
Number restored to Register having been previously removed	1	—	—	—	1
Inward Transfers	1	—	4	—	5
Cases brought to notice otherwise than by formal notification	1	—	1	—	2
Number removed from Register during 1962	23	—	10	—	33
Number on Register at 31st December, 1962	282	45	246	58	631

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION OF NEW CASES, DEATHS, and RECOVERY, of TUBERCULOSIS DURING 1962

TABLE V

Years	New Cases				Cases removed from Register due to death				Cases removed from Register due to recovery			
	Males		Females		Males		Females		Males		Females	
	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—15	2	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—25	2	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
—35	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	2	—
—45	2	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	5	—	2	—
—55	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
—65	3	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Total	15	1	17	2	2	—	—	—	15	—	6	—

TABLE VI
TUBERCULOSIS
Notifications for the following Years:

Year	Population	Males		Females		Total
		Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
1938	46,360	23	8	18	4	53
1939	46,360	26	3	21	3	53
1940	44,340	29	6	19	5	59
1941	45,000	33	5	20	4	62
1942	45,000	28	3	19	3	53
1943	45,000	29	3	18	5	55
1944	44,500	24	5	31	1	61
1945	44,410	31	4	21	5	61
1946	46,190	26	4	37	7	74
1947	47,060	26	4	30	6	66
1948	48,250	21	3	25	8	52
1949	48,490	34	1	25	8	63
1950	48,900	30	2	21	2	55
1951	48,690	39	—	26	5	70
1952	48,730	26	2	22	7	57
1953	48,970	43	2	33	3	81
1954	49,350	28	3	32	2	65
1955	49,740	41	1	15	—	57
1956	50,280	29	—	19	—	48
1957	51,180	15	—	16	3	34
1958	52,060	19	2	19	1	41
1959	53,280	27	1	16	3	47
1960	54,560	27	—	20	2	49
1961	56,010	30	—	21	2	53
1962	57,430	15	1	17	2	35

TABLE VII
Deaths from Tuberculosis for each of the following years:

Year	Population	Males		Females		Total
		Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
1938	46,360	27	2	5	1	35
1939	46,360	} Figures under these headings not available }				31
1940	44,340					34
1941	45,000					32
1942	45,000					37
1943	45,000					39
1944	44,500	19	1	9	3	32
1945	44,410	13	1	17	2	33
1946	46,190	17	2	16	1	36
1947	47,060	9	2	17	1	29
1948	48,250	12	—	15	1	28
1949	48,490	17	5	16	3	41
1950	48,900	9	1	8	3	21
1951	48,690	15	1	8	1	25
1952	48,730	10	1	9	—	20
1953	48,970	6	1	4	2	13
1954	49,350	6	1	1	2	10
1955	49,740	3	—	5	—	8
1956	50,280	2	1	2	—	5
1957	51,180	4	—	2	—	6
1958	52,060	2	1	—	—	3
1959	53,280	5	—	1	—	6
1960	54,560	3	—	2	—	5
1961	56,010	5	—	—	—	5
1962	57,430	2	—	—	—	2

TABLE VIII
NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1962

Disease	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 and over	Age un- known	Total	Rate per 1,000 pop. 1962	Rate per 1,000 pop. 1961
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	1	6	6	—	—	—	—	13	0.23	0.11
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	0.02	0.14
Measles	1	—	3	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	8	0.14	19.50
Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	3	0.05	0.11
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	0.02	0.02
Dysentery	1	—	—	1	4	6	—	—	1	1	14	0.24	0.05
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	0.02	0.02
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	0.03	—

SECTION C

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

The County Council through its Area Medical Officer is responsible for the administration of the following health services:

- Health Centres
- Care of Mothers and Young Children
- Midwifery
- Health Visiting
- Home Nursing
- Prevention of illness, care and after care
- Domestic Help
- Vaccination and Immunisation
- Ambulance Service
- Mental Health Service

Close liaison between this Department and the Area Health Office is maintained.

Hospitals

Administration of Hospitals and Specialist Services is the responsibility of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

The Hospitals serving the district are as follows:

- Wordsley Hospital, Brierley Hill
- Guest Hospital, Dudley.
- Corbett Hospital, Amblecote.

Other Hospitals within easy reach are those of Birmingham and Wolverhampton.

Cases of infectious diseases are referred to Isolation Hospitals, *e.g.*, Moxley Hospital, Wednesbury and Hayley Green Hospital, Halesowen.

Maternity and Nursing Homes

There are no Nursing Homes in the area. Maternity cases are admitted to Wordsley Hospital, and to the Rosemary Ednam Maternity Home at Dudley.

Tuberculosis

Sanatoria are provided at Kinver, Prestwood, and Himley. Cases of surgical tuberculosis are treated at Standon Hall and The Woodlands.

Dispensaries are situated at Dudley and Wolverhampton.

Post Mortem Room

67 bodies were admitted to the Post Mortem Room during the year. The causes of death were as follows:

Natural Causes	..	..	..	46
Asphyxia	..	..	..	2
Still Birth	..	..	..	1
Suicide	..	..	..	9
Misadventure	..	..	..	2
Accidental Death	..	..	..	3
Cause unknown (out of area)	..	..	..	4

Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory Service continues to deal with the pathological and bacteriological specimens sent from this area.

The chemical analysis of samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act is undertaken by the County Analyst, who acts for the Urban District.

National Assistance Act

Eight procedures were contemplated under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act 1948-1961, but fortunately natural causes prevailed before the local machinery could be put into operation.

SECTION D

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

Water Supply

The District is served by two Companies. The North Worcestershire Water Board supply 3,250 houses at Wordsley, while the rest of the area is served by the South Staffordshire Water Board. In both cases the supply comes from deep wells and bore-holes in the new red sandstone to depths varying from 200 feet to 500 feet. The water is examined regularly and has continued to be of a high standard of purity.

The following are typical analyses:

NORTH WORCESTERSHIRE WATER BOARD

Bacteriological Examination:

Coli Aerogenes Content (presumptive coli) after
48-hours incubation at 37 deg. Cent. .. Nil per 100 M.L.

Chemical Examination:

pH Value 7.2

Parts per million

Total solid matter dried at 212 deg. F.	..	410.0
Free and Saline Ammonia	.. ..	Nil
Albuminoid	.. ..	0.012
Nitric Nitrogen	.. ..	9.0
Chlorine present as Chloride	.. ..	35.0
Oxygen absorbed in 4-hours at 80 deg. F.	.. ..	0.04
Appearance	.. ..	Clear and colourless
Metallie Contamination	.. ..	Nil

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE WATER BOARD

Bacteriological Examination:

Coli Aerogenes Content (presumptive coli) after
48-hours incubation at 37 deg. Cent. .. Nil per 100 M.L.

Chemical Examination:

pH Value 7.4

Parts per million

Total solid matter dried at 212 deg. F.	..	370.0
Free and Saline Ammonia	.. ..	Nil
Albuminoid	.. .. ..	0.008
Nitric Nitrogen	.. ..	11.8
Chlorine present as Chloride	.. ..	36.0
Oxygen absorbed in 4-hours at 80-degs. F...		0.04
Appearance	.. .. ..	Clear and colourless
Metallic Contamination	.. ..	Nil

Public Cleansing

The Chief Public Health Inspector is also the Cleansing Superintendent and details of the work carried out will be found in his report.

SECTION E

HOUSING

As mentioned in the preamble to this report, active co-operation exists between the Public Health Department and the Housing Department.

In late 1961 a scheme was evolved and taken to the Council whereby all applications for rehousing or change of Council accommodation could receive consideration in respect of medical factors prevailing in the applicants houses. It is pleasing to note that the Council accepted this scheme in principle and that its operation has proceeded smoothly during the last twelve months.

The scheme in essence is rather simple and is composed of five "Priority Gradings" from the letter "A" to the letter "E", e.g., cases of tuberculosis, Heart Disease, etc., are placed in Priority Grade "A", whilst such factors as Anxiety Neurosis are placed in Grade "E".

In the assessment of what is thought to be a fair Priority Grading, not only the illness of the applicant is taken into consideration but also the environmental and social factors. If, after the award of a Priority Grade, there is further deterioration either medically or socially, then machinery exists for a re-assessment.

I am happy to report that over the last twelve months the scheme has operated smoothly and to the benefit of the people involved. There is, of course, the ever-present stricture of shortage of housing accommodation. The Council, therefore, has decided to deal with the most important Priority Grades initially, and this, I think, is a very fair assessment.

From the 1st January 1962 to the 31st December 1962, a total of 153 visits have been made to households and the recommendations forwarded to the Housing Committee for consideration.

Once again I record my appreciation of the support of the Chairman and Members of the Housing Committee given to me in this difficult, and at times unrewarding task, and also to note my thanks to Miss Southall and her staff for their ready help and co-operation.

The Architect and Housing Director has kindly supplied the following information:—

Houses completed during the year	..	120
The total of post-war dwellings completed is now as follows:—		
Permanent Traditional	..	3,300
(the houses for sale are not included in this total)		
Permanent Traditional Maisonettes	..	6
Permanent New Traditional	..	248
Permanent New Traditional Flats	..	46
Permanent Aluminium Bungalows	..	40
Temporary Asbestos Bungalows	..	100
Shops	..	11
Total		.. 3,751

The total of 3,751 excludes 160 Post-War houses built and sold and 24 Temporary Aluminium Bungalows being demolished as vacated.

There are 439 dwellings on approved tenders of which 259 are in course of construction.

Tenders for 23 dwellings await Ministry approval.

Chapel Street Redevelopment, Phase 1.	}	Commenced during the year.
Sheffield Street Flats.		

Schemes of Accommodation for the Aged are in hand for Kingswinford, Quarry Bank, and Wordsley.

Community Centre, Hawbush—tender approved—work commenced.

Community Centres for Kingswinford and Pensnett in hand.

712 houses were completed in 1962 and 644 were in course of construction at the end of the year: the breakdown of these figures is:—

	1962	Total	1961	Total	Inc. over 1961
Council houses completed	120		276		
Private houses completed	592	712	442	718	—
Council houses under construction	259		112		
Private houses under construction	385	644	268	380	264
Total Post-War Council houses ..	3,751		3,693		
Total Post-War Private houses ..	4,124	7,875	3,532	7,225	650

SECTION F

VETERINARY REPORT—LIVE AND DEAD MEAT INSPECTION

The number of animals killed showed an increase of 30,838 when compared with those killed in 1961.

	1960	1961	1962	Increase
Pigs	198,173	226,643	255,995	29,352
Cattle	2,125	2,349	2,469	120
Sheep	8,870	11,539	13,905	2,366
Calves	136	152	20	—

52 cases of Swine Fever were found and notified to the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries & Food. This compares with 4 cases during 1961. The increase was mainly due to a higher incidence of the disease nationally but also to the improvement in the standard of inspection.

Certificates for export of 2,513 cases or bales of meat products were issued and for this service a charge of £125 13s. 0d. was levied on Messrs. Marsh & Baxter Limited. The meat products went to the following places:

Antigua	Guadalcanal
Bahamas	Kuwait
Bathurst	Iran
Cyprus	Liberia
Freetown	Singapore
Germany	Solomon Islands
Gibraltar	Spain

During the year 1,195 pig lungs were inspected for various owners and certificates were sent informing them of the number of lungs infected with pneumonia.

Material was supplied to teaching units in the Medical Schools at Liverpool, Leeds, and St. Thomas's Hospital, and to research departments at the Royal Veterinary College, London, and to the Institute of Virology, Glasgow.

63 pigs died in the factory lairage whilst awaiting slaughter. 265 pigs and 2 sheep died in transit. A post-mortem examination was carried out on each of these animals. None was affected with anthrax.

The amount of meat condemned is relatively small. Much of that condemned is due to the high incidence of pig pneumonia and its complications. A slow start has been made by some of the enlightened pig owners to make an effort to eliminate this disease.

The weight of meat condemned is as follows:

	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
1. From the Brierley Hill factory:				
Imported meat	—	3	2	6
From factory killed pigs	193	9	3	22
From factory killed cattle	6	4	1	8
From factory killed sheep	1	4	0	25
From factory killed calves	—	—	3	10
Total	201	2	3	15
2. From the Birmingham factories of Messrs.				
Marsh & Baxter Limited	27	6	2	18

TABLE IX

PIGS

Table of diseases found in meat from 255,995 pigs inspected :

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Carcasses</i>	<i>Heads</i>	<i>Lungs</i>	<i>Hearts</i>	<i>Livers</i>	<i>Stomachs</i>	<i>Spleens</i>	<i>Kidneys</i>	<i>Intestines</i>	<i>Other Parts</i>	<i>% of kill</i>
Abscesses	1	415	1	1	1	1	1	2	18	13/FQ 52/HQ	0.198
Arthritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2/FQ 1/HQ	0.001
Bruising	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	22	11	6/FQ 33/HQ	0.058
Cirrhosis	—	—	—	—	1012	—	—	—	—	—	3.95
Congestion	—	—	11567	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4.52
Contamination ..	2	5	48	48	48	—	—	2	—	15/FQ 5/HQ	0.068
Disinfectant Burn ..	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	20	10	—	0.039
Emaciation	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	24	12	—	0.047
Empyema	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	0.0015
Emphysema	1	1	310	310	310	1	1	2	1	452/FQ	0.54
Endocarditis	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.0004
Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	82	—	0.032
Fascioliasis	—	—	—	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	0.006
Fat Necrosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	0.0004
Fatty Infiltration ..	—	—	—	—	4003	—	—	—	—	—	1.56
Gangrene	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	12	6	—	0.023

PIGS—(continued)

Disease	Carcases	Heads	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Stomachs	Spleens	Kidneys	Intestines	Other Parts	% of kill
Hydatid Cysts ..	—	—	12	12	15	—	—	—	13	—	0.020
Hydronephrosis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19045	—	—	7.44
Jaundice ..	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	22	11	—	0.043
Lympho-sarcoma ..	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	8	4	—	0.016
Mastitis ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—	0.004
Metritis ..	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	2	—	0.008
Nephritis ..	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	18	9	—	0.035
Oedema ..	—	—	—	—	—	122	—	—	122	—	0.095
Pericarditis ..	—	—	—	9911	—	—	—	—	—	—	3.87
Pigmentation ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—	0.004
Pleurisy ..	46	46	32554	46	46	46	46	92	46	—	12.88
Pyæmia ..	73	73	73	73	73	73	73	143	73	—	0.284
Septicaemia ..	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	52	26	—	0.102
Swine Erysipelas ..	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	50	25	—	0.098
Swine Fever ..	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	104	52	—	0.203
Swine Paratyphoid ..	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	12	6	—	0.023
Tuberculosis ..	15	5486	208	208	208	25	17	30	5050	2/FQ	4.4
Uraemia ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—	0.004
Variola ..	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	6	3	—	0.012
Peritonitis ..	160	160	160	160	11320	6529	6352	320	6554	—	12.39
Total ..	478	6366	45113	10950	26343	6977	6670	19996	12144	581	—
% of kill ..	0.187	2.487	17.62	4.28	10.29	2.72	2.61	7.81	4.80	0.228	—

TABLE X
CATTLE

Table of diseases found in meat from 2,469 cattle inspected:

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Carcases</i>	<i>Heads</i>	<i>Lungs</i>	<i>Hearts</i>	<i>Livers</i>	<i>Stomachs</i>	<i>Spleens</i>	<i>Kidneys</i>	<i>Intestines</i>	<i>Other Parts</i>	<i>% of kill</i>
Abscesses . . .	—	3	—	—	173	—	—	—	—	—	7.124
Actinobacillosis . .	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.36
Bacillary Necrosis . .	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	0.08
Bruising . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 F/Q	0.04
Contamination . . .	—	4	3	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	0.527
Cysticercosis . . .	—	14	14	14	14	14	14	—	14	—	3.97
Fascioliasis . . .	—	—	—	—	298	—	—	—	—	—	12.07
Fatty Infiltration . .	—	—	—	—	18	—	—	—	—	—	0.73
Gangrene . . .	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—	0.41
Hydatid Cysts . . .	—	—	—	—	14	—	—	—	—	—	0.57
Hydrocephalus . . .	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.04
Pericarditis . . .	—	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.60
Peritonitis . . .	1	1	1	1	5	1	1	2	1	—	0.57
Pleurisy . . .	—	—	34	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.37
Telangiectasis . . .	—	—	—	—	26	—	—	—	—	—	1.05
Tuberculosis . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	0.08
Total . .	2	33	53	34	554	16	16	4	18	1 F/Q	—
% of kill . .	0.08	1.30	2.07	1.30	22.44	0.60	0.64	0.16	0.70	0.04	—

TABLE XI

S H E E P

Table of diseases found in meat from 13,950 sheep inspected:

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Carcasses</i>	<i>Heads</i>	<i>Lungs</i>	<i>Hearts</i>	<i>Livers</i>	<i>Stomachs</i>	<i>Spleens</i>	<i>Kidneys</i>	<i>Intestines</i>	<i>Other Parts</i>	<i>% of kill</i>
Abscesses ..	—	5	8	3	36	—	—	—	—	3 H/Q	0.39
Arthritis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2 H/Q	0.014
Bruising ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 F/Q	0.007
Contamination ..	—	4	3	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	0.093
Emaciation ..	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	2	—	0.143
Fascioliasis ..	—	—	—	—	683	—	—	—	—	—	4.90
Fatty Infiltration ..	—	—	—	—	33	—	—	—	—	—	0.24
Hydatids ..	—	—	1	1	36	—	—	—	—	—	0.257
Mastitis ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—	0.07
Melanosis ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	0.007
Muelleriasis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.20
Pleurisy ..	2	2	28	2	2	2	2	4	2	—	0.60
Peritonitis ..	—	—	66	—	18	1	1	—	1	—	0.15
Septicaemia ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—	0.07
Toxaemia ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—	0.07
Pericarditis ..	—	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.086
Total ..	7	16	111	26	817	8	8	14	8	6	—
% of kill ..	0.05	0.11	0.79	0.19	5.85	0.05	0.05	0.11	0.05	0.043	—

TABLE XII

CALVES

Table of diseases found in meat from 120 calves inspected:

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Carcases</i>	<i>Heads</i>	<i>Lungs</i>	<i>Hearts</i>	<i>Livers</i>	<i>Stomachs</i>	<i>Spleens</i>	<i>Kidneys</i>	<i>Intestines</i>	<i>Other Parts</i>	<i>% of kill</i>
Immaturity ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—	0.83
Oedema ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—	0.83
Septicaemia ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—	0.83
Total ..	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	6	3	—	—
% of kill ..	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	5.00	2.50	—	—

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT

I have pleasure in submitting my report for the year 1962. In doing so I have amended the presentation in an endeavour to create more interest and avoid as far as possible the printing of pages of "dry as dust" statistics which previously perhaps appeared to be unrelated to comments made on other pages.

The work of a Public Health Inspector can roughly be divided into five main categories plus an infinite variety of miscellaneous matters with which the Inspectors training enables him to deal. For the purpose of this report, the main classifications are—

- (1) General administration, investigation of complaints and abatement of nuisances.
- (2) Clean Air Act control of domestic and industrial smoke and the measurement of air pollution.
- (3) Housing—the clearance of unfit houses and the repair and improvement of houses which merit such treatment.
- (4) The inspection of meat and other food to control fitness for human consumption, and the sampling of food to ensure good standards of hygiene, composition and quality.
- (5) Refuse collection and disposal.

All these matters have received due attention during 1962 and reasonable progress can be claimed in all matters except housing, in respect of which, progress was again slow. It is particularly disappointing to have to report such little demand for grants towards the cost of installing baths and hot water systems in old houses. A new house without these essential amenities is unthinkable and one presumes that the new occupiers enjoy their use. Is it the case that the occupiers of the older houses do not miss what they have never had?

I wish to thank the District Public Health Inspectors and my Deputy for the hard work put in during the year, and the Chief Clerk and clerical staff for their behind-the-scenes duties conscientiously performed.

The continued interest and support of the Chairman of the Public Health Committee and the members must again be put on record. In all matters the importance of promoting and improving public health standards has been the first priority.

The assistance and co-operation of the Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Officers of other Departments is also acknowledged.

General Administration

A detailed record is kept of all complaints made to the Department, and the increase from 469 to 570 no doubt reflects the continued growth of this Urban District. A large proportion of the increase was in drain stoppages dealt with by the workman employed for the purpose. This is a free service much appreciated by householders.

Complaints fell into the following categories:—

Drain stoppages	309
General defects to houses	149
Industrial nuisances, noise, etc.	8
Accumulations	34
Offensive odours	32
Overcrowding	7
Insect infestation	7
Smoke nuisances	3
Miscellaneous	21

All complaints were investigated and appropriate action taken in accordance with the various powers given by Acts of Parliament Regulations or Local Byelaws.

During the year 303 interviews took place covering all aspects of the department's duties.

In addition to attention to complaints, routine visits were made to houses, shops, factories and food premises as required by statute. All meat slaughtered in the district and much other food was inspected and subjected to regular sampling for qualitative or bacteriological examination. The following pages sectionalised under various headings give more details of this work.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Summary of Inspections	<i>Re- Inspections inspections</i>
Houses	771 646
Hairdressers	6 —
Other Shops	117 —
Rivers Pollution	10 6
Public Conveniences	3 —
Drainage (Inspection)	207 109
Drainage Tests	12 11
Cesspools	16 —
House and Trade Refuse Collections	30 —
Accumulations	— —
Infectious Diseases	122 39
Disinfestation	— —
Cleansing	168 —
Swimming Pool	30 —

In co-operation with the Severn River Board efforts to eliminate industrial pollution of the Dingle and Wordsley Brook were continued. The Company concerned, employed a contractor to clear a deposit of oil and undertook to install filtering equipment to prevent further pollution.

Representations were made to the Gas Board about foul smells resulting from the use of gas liquor as a fertiliser on agricultural land. An undertaking was given that deodorized liquor only would be used in future in the vicinity of houses.

Inspectors' reports resulted in the service of 184 Informal Notices requiring the abatement of nuisances. In most cases these were complied with but in other cases Statutory Abatement Notices were served as follows:—

Section 39	..	..	..	..	5
Section 93	..	..	..	..	13
Section 83	..	..	..	..	1

Legal Proceedings

Proceedings were instituted against a tenant and sub-tenant with regard to cleanliness of premises.

The tenant was fined £2 0s. 0d. and the sub-tenant was fined £2 0s. 0d. with £2 2s. 0d. costs.

The following is a list of repairs effected in dwelling houses:—

Roofs repaired	78
External brickwork repaired	19
Rainwater pipes or gutters repaired or renewed	38
Damp proof courses provided	2
Plasterwork repaired or renewed	48
Firegrates repaired	3
Doors repaired or renewed	8
Windows repaired or renewed	45
Floors repaired or renewed	12
Staircases repaired	1
Wash-houses repaired or rebuilt	14
Sinks renewed or repaired (brickwork)	3
Wash boilers repaired or renewed	8
Water closets repaired, etc.	66
Obstructed drains cleared	20
Drains repaired or reconstructed	17
Miscellaneous	26

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

3,418 visits were made to domestic premises and 170 visits to industrial premises. As a matter of routine, observations were made on the various chimneys in Smoke Control Areas, and 176 formal observations were made to record smoke emissions from factory chimneys.

Three further Smoke Control Orders were declared affecting new private housing development at Valley Fields, Kingswinford and some 38 adjoining older houses in Moss Grove, Summerhill and Swindon Road (No. 12 Area); new housing development at Bromley Lane and Wordsley, together with 83 older houses and Wordsley Hospital (No. 13 Area) and new housing development at Ashwood, Wordsley (No. 14 Area).

Survey work was commenced on a further area which will link up areas Nos. 4, 9 and 14.

The following is a complete list of Smoke Control Orders made since the Act came into force:—

<i>No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>No. of houses</i>	<i>Acreage</i>	<i>Date of Commencement</i>
1	Council Estate	124	13.5	1- 1-60
2	Council Estate	74	6.1	1- 1-60
3	Council Estate	96	10.1	1- 1-60
4	Private Development	204	36.5	1- 1-60
5	Council Estate	207	34.1	1- 1-60
6	Council Estate	80	13.4	1- 1-60
7	Council Estate	178	33.4	1- 1-60
8	Private Development	374	52.0	1-10-61
9	Private Development	550	103.0	1-10-61
10	Council Estate	348	123.0	1- 9-61
11	Mixed Council and Private Development	388	84.0	1-10-61
12	Private Development	496	136.9	1- 9-63
13	Private Development	1251	273.0	1- 9-63
14	Private Development	1210	121.7	1- 9-63

Almost one fifth of the Urban District is now subject to Smoke Control.

The Council decided to endeavour to bring 1,500 houses per year under smoke control so that the Urban District may be fully smoke controlled by 1971.

As in previous years, smoke and sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere was measured by means of three volumetric recording machines. These are stationed at the Civic Buildings, Brierley Hill, the Portway Housing Estate, Kingswinford and at Ridge Road, Kingswinford. The machine at Ridge Road is within a Smoke Control Area and it is interesting to note that during a foggy spell in December, 1962, smoke recorded at the Portway Housing Estate which is not smoke controlled was three and a half times as dense as that at Ridge Road.

TABLE I
CONCENTRATION OF SMOKE AND SULPHUR DIOXIDE
BY VOLUMETRIC APPARATUS

All Readings in Microgrammes per cubic metre.

1962	SMOKE						SULPHUR DIOXIDE					
	Monthly Average Value			Highest Daily Average			Monthly Average Value			Highest Daily Average		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
January ..	196	212	100	586	741	455	109	81	56	513	313	240
February ..	207	153	60	443	466	303	87	56	39	156	110	120
March ..	169	165	113	404	495	371	87	65	58	193	202	147
April ..	132	—	61	242	189	200	74	—	42	195	105	88
May ..	92	88	43	232	350	181	61	41	39	156	140	139
June ..	53	38	20	97	91	67	—	29	27	72	91	72
July ..	64	52	28	122	107	82	71	63	48	214	189	177
August ..	44	31	12	131	73	52	52	47	47	143	93	188
September ..	88	76	34	226	180	111	93	79	61	277	192	161
October ..	139	139	77	314	372	249	173	141	118	389	310	253
November ..	259	288	118	678	1069	343	272	237	167	559	410	301
December ..	256	298	145	803	1310	672	188	149	132	532	569	504
Yearly Average ..	141	140	67	—	—	—	115	89	69	—	—	—

A—Civic Buildings, Brierley Hill.

B—Portway School, Kingswinford.

C—Ridge Road, Kingswinford.

— Insufficient number of results.

Sulphur Dioxide is also measured at six lead peroxide recording stations. There has been no significant change in the readings during the last few years. As with the volumetric apparatus, results for May to September period are low and reflect the reduction in fuel usage for space heating during the summer months.

TABLE II

LEAD PEROXIDE SO₂ RECORDERSResults as Mg. of SO₃/Day collected by 100 sq. cm.

1962	STATION NUMBER					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
January	2.34	2.14	2.12	2.19	1.29	2.38
February	2.10	1.62	1.80	1.82	1.95	3.22
March	2.79	1.70	2.33	3.04	1.62	2.30
April	2.03	1.30	1.93	1.46	1.40	1.90
May	1.63	1.48	1.33	1.56	0.89	1.58
June	0.91	0.90	0.65	0.94	0.47	0.89
July	1.03	0.84	0.88	0.77	0.66	1.76
August	0.67	0.71	0.72	0.95	0.50	1.00
September	1.03	1.00	0.94	1.02	0.58	1.31
October	1.86	1.12	1.50	1.59	1.01	2.04
November	2.96	1.75	2.59	2.17	1.53	2.79
December	2.53	2.21	2.22	2.48	2.32	2.12
Yearly Average:						
1962	1.82	1.40	1.58	1.67	1.19	1.94
1961	1.57	1.18	1.36	1.23	0.99	1.65

I think that the Council can claim that satisfactory progress is being made with domestic smoke control. The same may be said of industrial smoke which is now subject to the limitations imposed by the Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations. Industry was allowed seven years from July, 1956 to complete the modernisation of obsolete plant which might be difficult to operate smokelessly. This fact has been consistently brought to the notice of individual plant operators, and there has been a steady changeover to automatic firing. There are now few hand fired boilers left, and it is hoped that they will soon go out of use. Hand fired boilers can, of course, be fired without causing smoke, but this entails the use of much skill and care by the stoker. On the other hand, mechanical equipment must be maintained in good condition, and no doubt this will be the next matter requiring the attention of Smoke Inspectors.

The 1956 Act made the provision that all new furnaces should be capable of operating smokelessly, and it is pleasing to report that it is very rare indeed to see smoke emitted from the many new factories erected in this district since 1956. Notice of the installation of new furnaces is required to be given to the Council, and this gives the opportunity to check on the proposals.

Certificates of prior approval in accordance with Section 3 of the Act were given in respect of two furnaces.

In co-operation with the Surveyor, all plans were perused to check that new chimneys would be of adequate height so as not to be likely to cause nuisance from flue gases at ground level.

The prevention of nuisance due to the discharge of grit and dust is dealt with separately under the Act, Section 5 of which requires that any practicable means there may be shall be adopted to minimise emissions. Foundry cupolas are the principal furnaces likely to cause nuisance although boilers using forced draught can also cause trouble. Of the 18 cupolas in the area 11 are now fitted with an approved grit arrester.

No report on air pollution in Brierley Hill would be complete without reference to the processes registered under the Alkali Acts. These processes are inspected by Inspectors appointed by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. They present difficult technical problems, some of which, will take some years to solve. The Council has from time to time received reports from the Local Inspector following representations made about particular premises, and it would appear that progress is being made. Registered processes include steel making furnaces, gas producers, hot blast cupolas and brick kilns, all of which, are to be seen in Brierley Hill. It is hoped that the seven year period previously mentioned will be applied as far as is practicable to these processes so that 1963 can give some definite date for the abatement of these nuisances.

Water Supplies

Samples of the water supply from the public mains were submitted for analysis as follows:

	<i>Chemical</i>	<i>Bacteriological</i>
The South Staffordshire Waterworks Company	9	11
North West Worcestershire Water Board	3	3
Wordsley Hospital	4	6

A complaint of taint and discolourisation of drinking water at a new school was found to be due to metallic contamination. This was referred to the County Council for appropriate action.

Swimming Pools

Routine samples of the water in the Council's Public Swimming Pool were taken at frequent intervals, the alkalinity and chlorine content being checked at the same time. Sixty bacteriological samples and three chemically tested samples all proved satisfactory. This is undoubtedly due to the efficient management and "on the spot" control exercised by the Bath's Superintendent.

Infectious Disease Prevention

122 visits were made for enquiries in connection with cases of infectious disease, the opportunity being taken to report on the housing conditions of the families concerned. Five houses were disinfected.

Verminous Premises

Four houses were sprayed for the elimination of bugs and ninety-six for cockroaches, ants, etc.

The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

Licences were operative for caravans on the following sites:—

<i>Site</i>	<i>Number of Caravans</i>
Kingfisher Caravan Site, Wallheath	150
9, Caledonia Road, Quarry Bank	1
Land Amblecote Road, Quarry Bank	3
*Land Turk Street, Brierley Hill	1
"Woodlands", Cot Lane, Wordsley	1
8, Turk Street, Brierley Hill	1
Level Street, Brierley Hill—Sites "A" and "B"	2
Rear of 12, Delph Lane, Brierley Hill	1
140, Level Street, Brierley Hill	1
Rear of 109, Dudley Road, Brierley Hill	1
Land Astons Fold, Ravensitch, Quarry Bank	1
Rear of "Ramsey House", Penzer Street, Kingswinford	1

* Removed later in year.

Conditions embodying those suggested in the Ministry's Model were imposed where suitable. Work was still in progress at the end of the year on additional sanitary and washing facilities at the Kingfisher site.

38 visits and 23 re-visits were made to licensed caravan sites.

The Caravans at "May View" Thorns Road, Quarry Bank were still occupied pending enforcement action by the Planning Authority.

The Health Committee expressed concern that a few caravanners went into occupation of sites without first obtaining a licence, and the Council adopted the Committee's recommendation that legal proceedings should be taken against future offenders.

The activity of the itinerant van dwellers was rather less than in previous years, but their sites were as untidy as ever. Vans were removed on several occasions from vacant housing sites. These people appear to make no effort to comply with the Act.

65 visits and 11 re-visits were made to unlicensed sites.

HOUSING

<i>Summary of Inspections</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Re-inspections</i>
Demolition Section 17	29	160
Clearance Areas	118	216
Other Visits	107	2
Improvement Grants	283	503
Rent Act, 1957	2	1
Houses in Multiple Occupation	48	77
Overcrowding	57	—

Notwithstanding that 190 unfit houses subject to Demolition or Clearance Areas were vacated during the year (176 families rehoused by the Council) the number of occupied unfit houses subject to operative orders was 199 at the end of December. For this reason, and due to the fact that prospects for new house lettings during 1963 were known to be poor, progress in Housing Act action was limited to cases which became urgent due to dangerous structures or acute unfitness coupled with ill health of the tenants. The total of 28 houses dealt with is the lowest for several years as perusal of Table III will confirm. Many new dwellings including maisonettes and multi-storey flats are planned, but it is the completion rate which finally decides the rate of housing progress. Confirmation was received for the Silver Street, Bull Street Brierley Hill Compulsory Purchase Order.

Inspections were commenced in preparation for the declaration of the first Clearance Areas of the second five-year slum clearance programme in anticipation that they would be declared during 1963. None of the tenants of these houses can expect to be rehoused before 1964. These facts emphasise that there is no room for complacency or satisfaction in regard to slum clearance when it is known that there are still approximately 850 families occupying scheduled unfit houses.

So much for the question of clearance of unfit houses not repairable at reasonable expense. Let us look at the question of houses repairable at reasonable expense. It is regrettable to have to say that it has again not been practicable to resume the systematic inspection of such houses. This is a position common to many authorities, and stems from a preoccupation with slum clearance and the fear that in many cases the cost of repairs to suitable houses would prove unreasonable. This means that houses gradually deteriorate into clearance categories. This problem is allied to the question of the modernisation of houses, and the requirement that houses where improvement grants are given must be in good repair offsets to some extent the lack of progress with systematic house to house repairs. It may be that if compulsory repair was combined with compulsory improvement, more progress would be made. One thing is quite clear, the total cost of repairing and improving suitable houses is far less than the cost of building new houses and perhaps this should be considered when assessing reasonable expense rather than relating this entirely to rent income.

DETAILS OF THE YEAR'S WORK

Section 17 (Demolition Orders)

28 houses were reported as being unfit and 18 Demolition Orders were made on the following:—

BRIERLEY HILL

22, 24, 26, 36, 38, The Goss, Delph, Brierley Hill.
162, Mill Street, Brierley Hill.

KINGSWINFORD

“Northview,” Bromley Lane, Kingswinford.

WORDSLEY

14 and 15, Camp Hill, Wordsley.

QUARRY BANK

19, Rose Hill, Quarry Bank.
22, Stour Hill, Quarry Bank.

PENSNETT

9b and 9c, Tansey Green, Pensnett.
134, High Street, Pensnett.
73 and 74, Commonside, Pensnett.

BROCKMOOR

1 and 2, Campbell Street, Brockmoor.

CLOSING ORDERS MADE IN LIEU OF DEMOLITION ORDERS

20, The Goss, Delph, Brierley Hill.
22a, Caledonia, Quarry Bank.
200, Thorns Road, Quarry Bank.
152, High Street, Pensnett.
20, High Street, Wordsley.

CLOSING ORDER ON PART OF A BUILDING

First floor room of outbuilding—44, Moss Grove, Kingswinford.

UNDERTAKINGS TO DEMOLISH

92, Fenton Street, Brierley Hill.
75 and 76, Commonside, Pensnett.

UNDERTAKINGS TO RENDER FIT.

90, Norwood Road, Brockmoor.

TABLE III
HOUSING ACTS
SUMMARY OF ACTION TAKEN 1930—1962

Year	Sections 16 & 17		Sec's 17 & 18	Clearance Areas No. of Houses	Informal Action No. of Houses	Total	Houses Closed	Houses Demolished	Persons Displaced
	Demolition Orders	Under- takings							
1930—1939 ..	1,157	132	138	620	45	2,092	134	1,598	7,654
1940—1947 ..	8	7	1	—	2	18	8	88	133
1948—1954 ..	225	17	11	33	15	301	23	334	1,366
1955 ..	64	3	10	159	15	251	12	84	179
1956 ..	49	1	5	—	1	56	8	21	128
1957 ..	20	—	3	—	5	28	6	31	435
1958 ..	213	1	15	323	—	552	6	119	455
1959 ..	125	1	13	61	35	235	15	164	690
1960 ..	35	4	3	145	18	205	4	232	401
1961 ..	8	—	2	44	8	62	3	204	743
1962 ..	18	4	6	—	5	33	5	238	468
	1,922	170	207	1,385	149	3,833	224	3,113	12,652

Improvement Grants

The total number of applications approved was less than last year. More Standard Grants were given but less Discretionary Grants. The cash paid out, however, was greater due to the long delay which occurs in many cases in completion of improvements after the grant has been agreed—many of the payments related to work approved during 1961.

There is no doubt that in this area the building trade is very busy with new house building which is more straightforward than property repairs and alterations. Greater interest from builders could, I think, promote more improvement work. Householders may be assured that every assistance with the minimum of red tape will be given to them. If the cost of repairs is a stumbling block the Council willingly assists with loans, and this is in addition to loaning the owner's portion of the cost of improvements. The Council designated the area enclosed by Talbot Street, Bank Street and Bradleymore Road (including Adelaide Street and Trinity Street) Brierley Hill for special attention. All the houses are to be visited and the owners circularised and asked to take grants. The Council also agreed to purchase any tenanted house if the owner preferred to sell rather than do the improvements himself.

The survey was in progress at the end of the year.

1962—IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

	<i>Applications Approved</i>	<i>Grants Paid</i>
Housing Act, 1949		
Improvement Grants	11	£4,832 16 0
House Purchase & Housing Act, 1959		
Standard Improvement Grants . .	34	£2,831 9 8
Total . .	45	£7,664 5 8

RENT ACT, 1957

There was again little call on the services of the department as the following statistics show:—

FIRST SCHEDULE

Year ended 31st December, 1962

PART I—APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

(1) Number of applications for certificates	1
(2) Number of decisions not to issue certificates	Nil
(3) Number of decisions to issue certificates:	
(a) in respect of some but not all defects	Nil
(b) in respect of all defects	1
(4) Number of undertakings given by landlords under Paragraph V of the First Schedule	Nil
(5) Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to Paragraph V of the First Schedule	Nil
(6) Number of certificates issued	1

PART II—APPLICATIONS FOR CANCELLATION OF CERTIFICATES

(7) Applications by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of certificates	3
(8) Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	Nil
(9) Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenants' objection	Nil
(10) Certificates cancelled by Local Authority	3

Overcrowding

At the end of 1962 there were 4 known cases of statutory overcrowding, as set out in the following table:

	<i>Council Houses</i>	<i>Private Houses</i>	<i>Total</i>
At 31st December, 1961	4	3	7
New cases	—	1	1
	4	4	8
Cases abated	2	2	4
	—	—	—
Total cases at 31st December, 1962 ...	2	2	4
	—	—	—

Houses in Multiple Occupation

The 1957 Housing Act gave additional powers to control overcrowding in houses occupied by more than one family. The 1961 Act added to these powers enabling Local Authorities to require better facilities. These include sanitary accommodation, cooking, sinks, foodstores, hot and cold water supply with hand basins and baths. The Council decided to apply the following standards:

OVERCROWDING—

Room area 70—110 square feet	..	Not more than one person
Room area 110—200 square feet	..	Not more than two persons
Room area 200—300 square feet	.	Not more than three persons

Facilities

No one amenity should be shared by more than two families and there should be one W.C., one bath, one sink, one cooker and foodstore for every five persons, and a supply of hot and cold water should be maintained.

The procedure adopted was that in accordance with Section 15, a Direction was given limiting the number of persons permitted to live in the house having regard to existing facilities. The owner could either allow the number of persons in occupation to run down or could provide additional facilities.

Directions were made in respect of six houses and five notices were issued requiring abatement of overcrowding.

The Act also empowers the service of notices requiring additional facilities. It was, however, found impracticable to do this in the particular houses dealt with because without removal of some of the tenants, there would have been no room for the fitting of baths, etc.

With the issue of the Housing (Management of Houses in Multiple Occupation) Regulations, 1962, power was given to require better management of these houses by means of Management Orders following which, notices requiring repairs can be issued. Four Management Orders were made, and the attention of the owners was called to the necessary repairs. In five cases the owners decided to discontinue the letting off of rooms and so obviated compliance with the Notices. They were probably demoralised by the welter of notices and forms delivered to them from the office. It is fortunate that there are few serious instances of multiple occupation of houses in Brierley Hill, otherwise the staff would have been overwhelmed with the paper work called for by the Act's requirements regarding the service of notices.

In each case the advice of the County Fire Department was sought regarding means of escape in case of fire, and two notices were served on owners requiring appropriate provision to be made.

It should be noted that the powers to require the provision of baths, wash hand basins and hot and cold water supplies is applicable to multi-occupied houses only. Surely, it will be realised one day that these facilities should be compulsory in all houses.

In one instance legal proceedings were taken for a contravention of Section 160 of the Housing Act, 1957 in refusing to allow a Public Health Inspector to enter the house. A fine of £5 0s. 0d. with £7 7s. 0d. costs was imposed.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Composition and Labelling of Food and Drugs.

197 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst, all were genuine except 7 which were reported as follows:—

<i>Sample No.</i>		<i>Action taken</i>
2813—Milk (Sterilised). Contains 4.3% of added water.	Informal	The complaint was thoroughly investigated, deliveries of milk were checked but the source of the added water could not be traced.
2838—Shrewsbury Biscuits. Described as "Made with Pure Butter" so that fat present should be entirely butter, but contains only 50% Butter	Informal	Manufacturers agreed to amend their label to read—"Containing pure butter".
2844—Buttercream Flapjacks. The fat in Butter-cream should consist entirely of butter-fat. The fat in this cream-like filling in this sample contains only 48.7% of butter-fat.	Informal	Manufacturers agreed to amend their label to read—"Devon flapjacks".
2894—Braised Pork Kidneys. Contains only 70.6% of meat and so should be described as "Braised Pork Kidneys in Gravy".	Informal	The manufacturers have agreed to amend their label to read "Braised Pork Kidneys in rich gravy".
2904—Pure Concentrated Apple Juice. Contains only 13.7 mgm./fl.oz. of Vitamin C instead of the minimum of 30 mgm./fl.oz. claimed.	Informal	This proved to be old stock which has been withdrawn from sale.
2950—Chopped Pork. 9.9% deficient of its proper proportion of meat, containing 85.6% instead of 95.0%.	Informal	This product is imported from Yugoslavia and the Importers contend that there are no legal standards for meat content of canned meats.
2983—Pork Sausage. Contains undeclared sulphite preservative, equivalent to 230 parts per million of sulphur dioxide.	Formal	The manufacturer was warned.

The full list of articles analysed is:

Almonds (Ground)	Cordial (Aniseed)	Milk Chocolate (Diabetic)
Aluminium Hydroxide	Coffee & Chicory	Mints
Tablets.	Crab Paste	Mock Salmon Cutlets
Apple Juice	Cherry Wine	Milk (Pasteurised)
Bubble Gum	Christmas Pudding	Milk (T.T. Pasteurised)
Blackcurrant Conserve	Diltron	Milk (Channel Island)
Baked Beans	Dentyne Gum	Milk (Sterilised)
Baked Beans (with pork	Dietivit Elixir	Margarine with 10% Butter
sausage)	Drinks Aleoholic:	Marzipan
Butter	Bitter Beer	Morfat Whipping
Butter Crinkle Biscuits	Gin	Nerve Tone
Butter Cream Flapjacks	Rum	Orange Thins
Blauds Pills	Whisky	Orange Essence
Bicarbonate Tablets	Essence of Linseed	Pink Pills (Dr. Williams)
Beef with Butter (Potted)	Essence Various Flavours	Pancake Mixture
Beef (Corned)	Essence of Rennet	Pork Sausage
Beef Steak Pudding	Extract of Beef	Quick Jel
Beef Loaf	Fish Cakes	Raspberries
Braised Pork Kidneys	Fruit Jam	Supervite
Butter (New Zealand)	Faggots	Sauce (Chop)
Butter (Real English)	Flavoured Milk Drink	Sponge Pudding Mixture
Butter (Farm Bell)	Glycerin, Lemon & Honey	Sauce's (various)
Butter (Danish)	Ginger Sweets	Strawberries
Butter (Fine Fare)	Hamburger Patties with	Shrewsbury Biscuits
Chopped Chicken	Gravy	Starch Reduced Rolls
Citroze	Ice Cream	Sausage Rolls
Cream (Pure Dairy)	Instant Postum	Sausage (Beef & Pork)
Cocaine Tablets	Jelly	Salmon Spread
Calcium Gluconate Tablets	Lamb Tongues	Sunny Spread
Chopped Pork	Lobelline	Sherbo Dal
Cetal	Lightning Tonic	Supervite
Chewing Gum	Lemonade Powder	Small Leaf Tea
Cough Syrup	Lemon Curd	Turkey & Sausage Dinner
Cigarettes (Sweets)	Mento Lyptus Tablets	Teabreak Biscuits
Chicken Croquettes	Margarine	Tomato Ketchup
Chutney Pickle (sieved)	Meat Tenderiser	Turkey Soup
Coffee Sugar Crystals	Mashed Potato	Vitaliser Tonic
	Marmalade	Vegetables Veal & Ham

Slaughterhouses Act, 1958

The final result of the Slaughterhouse Report is that eight slaughterhouses now comply with the structural requirements of the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations. The improvements carried out have included enlarged and better lairages, stunning pens for cattle, additional or enlarged meat hanging rooms, equipment for sterilising butchers' knives, cleavers, etc., and changing rooms and hand washing facilities for slaughtermen. The standard of building has been sound and substantial and in most cases has included glazed tile wall finishes where necessary. The facilities for good hygienic meat production are therefore available and all Meat Inspectors are instructed to see that the "hygienic practices" section of the Regulations are observed.

1451 visits were made to slaughterhouses.

Number of licensed slaughtermen 59

Meat Inspection

This essential work occupied the full time of one Inspector—visits to slaughterhouses were made for this purpose. When the eight slaughterhouses go into full production in 1963, another Inspector will have to be allocated part time. Even with this service, it is not possible to inspect all animals at the time of slaughter. All offals are, however, kept for inspection with the carcase, and in view of the generally high quality of animals handled by butchers in this area, the Inspectors were satisfied that all meat passed for human consumption was, in fact, fit for that purpose. The position is always under review, and if it is necessary to inspect more of the meat at time of slaughter, extra inspectorial time will have to be allocated.

TABLE IV

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed	2917	19	15	14,237	15,773
Number Inspected	2917	19	15	14,237	15,773
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcasses condemned . .	1	—	1	4	14
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	370	3	—	590	2398
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci . .	12.72	15.79	6.66	4.17	15.29
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned . .	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned	3	—	—	—	685
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis . .	0.10	—	—	—	4.34
Cysticerci					
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned	27	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	27	—	—	—	—
Generalised and Totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

Total weight of meat condemned 8-tons, 19-cwts.

Other Foods condemned

Apricots (Dried)	37-lbs.
Apricots (Tins)	26
Beetroot (Tins)	3
Beef, Corned (Tins)	3
Cherries (Tins)	1
Cream (Tins)	5
Chicken (Whole) (Tinned)	1
Fruit Salad (Tins)	5
Grapefruit (Tins)	5
Ham (Tins)	14
Irish Stew (Tins)	2
Luncheon Meat (Tins)	1
Milk (Tins)	1
Mincedmeat (Tins)	2
Ox Tongue (Tins)	1
Peas (Tins)	5
Peas (Pkts.)	169
Peaches (Tins)	5
Pears (Tins)	3
Pilchards (Tins)	2
Pineapple (Tins)	5
Plums (Tins)	1
Puddings (Tins)	1
Sardines (Tins)	2
Soups (Tins)	1
Salmon (Tins)	2
Tomatoes (Tins)	12
Vegetables (Tins)	3

In two cases failure of cold store refrigerators resulted in the following frozen goods being condemned:-

Miscellaneous Goods:-

Peas, beans, fish, meats	577-pkts.
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Miscellaneous Ice Creams:-

Choc Ices, Cornets, Brickettes	17-dozen
--	----------

Several instances of foreign bodies in food were investigated, e.g., glass in milk, metal washers in mincemeat. In all cases it appeared that the manufacturers had taken all possible steps to prevent such incidents and would redouble their efforts to do so.

Food Hygiene

Some idea of the work necessary and the work actually done may be gained from the following table:—

<i>Premises</i>	<i>No. in Register</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Number of Reinspections</i>
Markets and General			
Food Premises	417	424	130
Food Preparing Premises			
Sausage, etc.	21	55	9
Canteens and Cafes	52		
Fish Friers	23	28	12
Ice Cream Manufacturers	5	32	25
Licensed Premises	170	55	203
Food Vehicles	no record	116	2

The general idea of raising the standard of Food Handling Hygiene has been much publicised since introduction of Food Byelaws in 1950 and the Food Hygiene Regulations in 1955. It might therefore be thought that every food trader and employee would be aware of the standards required. That this is not so is made clear by the fact that 218 letters were sent to food traders drawing attention to breaches of the Regulations and that in three cases legal proceedings were taken and fines imposed. The imposition of a fine probably exerts some financial pinch and loss of reputation on the offender and may frighten others into being more careful.

It has long been the policy at Brierley Hill to maintain a friendly relationship with traders in return for co-operation in adopting departmental recommendations. This policy reduces the risk of conditions deteriorating to such an extent that proceedings are inevitable but requires the expenditure of much time in visits to premises. Experience indicates that if this work is allowed to lapse conditions deteriorate. The value of work of the staff of Public Health Inspectors must be assessed accordingly.

Food Premises—Items Remedied

Rooms cleaned or repaired	67
Storage accommodation improved	15
Hot water and cold water provided	36
Wash-basins and sinks provided	82
Outside display improved	10
First-aid kits provided	25
Miscellaneous	19

Legal Proceedings

Legal Proceedings were taken in three cases:—

<i>Name</i>	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Result of Proceedings</i>
Messrs. J. Goodwin & Son (Quarry Bank) Limited.	Insect infestation in Bakehouse and lack of proper facilities.	Fined £50 0s. 0d. and ten guineas costs.
Mr. Henry Enefer.	Smoking whilst handling food in a foodroom.	Fined £3 0s. 0d. and five guineas costs.
Messrs. Price & Sons Limited.	Bread van in dirty condition.	Fined £5 0s. 0d. and five guineas costs.

Ice Cream

67 Samples were submitted to the Methylene Blue Test. Eight results were unsatisfactory.

	<i>Type of Mix</i>	<i>No. of Samples Submitted</i>	<i>GRADES</i>			
			1	2	3	4
Produced within the Urban District	Heat Treated	22	17	—	2	3
	Complete Cold	9	8	1	—	—
Produced outside	Heat Treated	36	33	—	2	1
TOTAL		67	58	1	4	4

It is some years since so many samples were graded within Grades three and four. This is solely due to the introduction of soft ice cream manufactured on mobile sales vans and the employment of inexperienced people to serve the ice cream and to attend to the sterilisation of the freezing machinery and storage bottles and to manage the equipment so that ice cream mix is stored at the safe temperature laid down in the Regulations. It is unfortunate that there is no power to control these vehicles by licence. They can come into Brierley Hill from other areas freely without the department being officially informed that they intend to do so.

So far as individual samples were concerned, the reasons for the failures were fully investigated and advice was given to avoid repetition, but I feel that unless the trade puts its house in order, it will fall into disrepute. Pre-packed factory made ice cream continued to be of excellent quality.

Section 16

There are 248 premises on the register:

Ice-Cream Factories	..	..	..	..	..	5
Ice-Cream Shops	..	..	..	..	..	193
Sausage, etc., factories	..	..	..	..	..	26
Fish Friers	..	..	..	..	..	24

MILK

All licences were issued last year to cover five years to December, 1965.

Samples were taken regularly and failures investigated.

Table V gives details of all milk samples taken.

TABLE V

MILK SAMPLING—

RESULTS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION, 1962

<i>Designation under which sold</i>	<i>Total No. of Samples</i>	<i>Methylene Blue Test</i>		<i>Phosphatase Test</i>		<i>Turbidity Test</i>	
		<i>Pass</i>	<i>Fail</i>	<i>Pass</i>	<i>Fail</i>	<i>Pass</i>	<i>Fail</i>
T.T. Pasteurised ..	28	28	—	28	—	—	—
Pasteurised	54	54	—	54	—	—	—
Sterilised	22	—	—	—	—	22	—
T.T. (Raw)	10	10	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	114	92	—	82	—	22	—

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

5 enquiries were received and 68 visits made. In two cases the problem is a continuing one arising from the nature of the trade and some progress was made in reducing noise. One complaint was due to the temporary use of a compressor, and in two other cases it was not considered that any serious nuisance existed.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number in Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>	
		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
Factories—			
With Mechanical Power	302	68	Nil
Without Mechanical Power	36	10	Nil
Total	338	78	Nil

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of Defects</i>				<i>Number of offences in respect of which Prose- cutions were Instituted</i>
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred to H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>Referred by H.M. Inspector</i>	
Want of cleanliness	13	5	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ..	12	3	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:					
Insufficient	4	2	—	3	—
Unsuitable or defective ..	1	1	—	—	—
Not separate for sexes ..	4	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	5	—	—	—	—
Total	39	11	—	3	—

7 Outworkers lists were received notifying 10 Outworkers.

159 visits and 49 revisits were made to factories and outworker premises.

Some difficulty was still experienced in securing the proper arrangement of sanitary accommodation in new factory buildings.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Rats and Mice destruction is carried out free of charge to house-holders, business premises attract a charge on a cost plus basis. In all 205 dwelling houses plus 117 business premises were treated for minor infestations.

Full details of the work are reproduced from the annual return to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

A treatment of the Council's sewers was carried out and revealed little infestation.

	<i>TYPE OF PROPERTY</i>			
	<i>Non-Agricultural</i>			
	<i>Local Authority</i>	<i>Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)</i>	<i>All Other (including Business Premises)</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number of properties in Local Authority's District	9	18,215	2,432	20,656
Number of properties inspected as a result of:				
Notification	—	260	—	260
Survey	2	5	67	74
Otherwise	—	836	781	1,617
Total inspections carried out including re-inspection	31	1115	1158	2,304
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:				
Rats—Minor	2	174	103	279
Mice—Minor	—	31	14	45
Number of infested properties treated by the L.A.	2	205	117	324
Total treatments carried out including re-treatments	21	636	677	1,334

Assistance was given to Amblecote U.D.C. when requested.

SHOPS ACT

Details of the shop premises on the register are as follows:

Food Shops	417
Cafes	9
Other Shops	268
Licensed Premises	170

The requirements of the Act are referred to during routine visits to shops for other purposes.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Number of licensed premises	2
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RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Premises registered under this Act. .. .	2
--	---

PETROLEUM ACTS, 1928—1936

Premises licensed	93
Total storage (gallons)	161,830
Fees	£72 15s. 0d.

Petroilers

Premises Licensed	10
Total Storage (Gallons)	138½
Fees	£2 10s. 0d.

38 visits and 99 revisits were made to Filling Stations and other petroleum stores to secure compliance with licence conditions. Conditions for new Filling Stations followed the standard laid down by the West Midlands Petroleum Acts Administration Group.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

This section of the Report relates to the year ended 31st March, 1963.

Staff

Student Public Cleansing Inspector ..	1	
Foreman	1	
Male Employees	47	
Female Employees	5	
These are employed as follows:	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Refuse Collection	27	—
Refuse Disposal	1	—
Salvage	3	5
Street Cleansing	10	—
Gullies and Cesspools	2	—
Depot, Drains, Public Conveniences		
Rodent Control	4	—

The number of working days lost by all employees, through sickness or injuries was 792.

Workmen employed on street cleansing act as relief refuse collectors when required.

The vehicles available in the Department are listed below:

<i>Registration No.</i>	<i>Vehicle</i>	<i>Year</i>
SRE 742	S & D Freighter (side loader)	1949
2227 E	Morris Refuse Collector (side loader)	1953
YRF 485	S & D Fore and Aft Tipper	1953
258 ARF	S & D Fore and Aft Tipper	1953
407 ERF	S & D Fore and Aft Tipper	1955
*306 TRF	S & D Fore and Aft Tipper	1958
*DBF 64	S & D Fore and Aft Tipper (Bulk Container Loader) ..	1960
*138 DBF	S & D Fore and Aft Tipper (Bulk Container Loader) ..	1962
*9722 RE	S & D Gully Cesspool Emptier	1960
*401 KRE	Bedford-Lacre Mechanical Road Sweeper	1956
*19 TRE	Bedford-Lacre Mechanical Road Sweeper	1957
*1263 RF	Bedford-Lacre Mechanical Road Sweeper	1960
*9411 E	Austin (4 cu. yd. side loader) Street Cleansing ..	1959
34 LRF	Austin Pick-up A40	1956
318 JRF	Morris Van (waste paper collection)	1956
*940 JBF	Austin Van (waste paper collection)	1962
*941 JBF	Austin Van (waste paper collection)	1962
948 LBF	Austin A.60 Van (Foreman)	1963
9701 RF	Austin A.55 Van (Rodent Operative, Disinfection) ..	1960
*	Bray Loader (4-wheel drive) (Tip)	1958
83 RRE	Austin Omni Van (public conveniences and bin delivery)	1957
387 CRF	Austin 2-ton Lorry	1954

* Denotes diesel engine

It was decided to replace the Morris side loading refuse collection vehicle and an order was placed for a Shelvoke and Drewry Pakamatic Refuse Collector of 35-cu. yd. rated capacity. Delivery is expected during 1963. This design of vehicle compresses the refuse during loading into the body and therefore has greater carrying capacity particularly with the light refuse now arising in Smoke Control Areas.

Refuse Collection

The year covered by this report ended on the 31st March, 1963, i.e. the end of the financial year. The last quarter was, therefore, the first quarter of the 1963 National Productivity Year, and it is therefore opportune to refer to this aspect of refuse collection.

In October, 1961 a survey report of an independent firm of work study consultants gave the opinion that productivity of the refuse collectors was high. This was undoubtedly due to the bonus scheme first introduced in 1951 which has resulted in a progressive increase in output per team per week. This is measured in terms of bins emptied per week per team. During the last few

years, the figure has been on average 4,000 bins per week. These figures are achieved partly by hard work, by know-how in the procedure adopted, and by the use of large capacity well-maintained vehicles and the availability of spare vehicles to reduce to a minimum interruption in loading time which might be caused by normal vehicle maintenance work and or unforeseen breakdown.

By joint consent it appears that the present team output is a maximum one notwithstanding that some teams complete the work well within the normal 42-hours. The pay is calculated as normal weekly pay plus a bonus payment and the reduction in target last year resulted in a substantial increase in bonus pay (30/- per week per man). From a productivity point of view it was fortunate that the men decided to earn and receive this extra bonus and not reduce output.

There are other factors which affect output. Examples are, difficult access to bins, steps up or down to houses, long footpaths, ornamental grass plots in front of houses, cul-de-sacs, etc. It would be excellent if all householders stored bins at the front. This has been done successfully on one private housing development and avoids the difficulties encountered when householders build up the whole of the frontage with garages without separate access to the rear. It also reduces the walking distance of the men. The attention of estate developers to these considerations would be a move in the right direction.

Last year it was reported that it was proposed to introduce salvage trailers on to the refuse collection rounds. This has been done on one round following the agreement that there should be a reduction in the basic dust bin target, and an extra payment based on the weight of paper collected. This scheme has operated on a permanent basis since July, 1962. Apart from a difficult period during the snowy weather, the weight collected has been 45—60-cwts. per week giving each man a bonus of 20/- to 25/- per week. Productivity on bin collection has been reduced by about 300 bins per week, but 110-tons of waste paper have been collected. Financially the scheme breaks even when allowing for the cost of collecting the 300 bins lost output. It is clear that the trade unions drove a hard bargain with the Council when negotiating the bonus rates. It is still not clear, however, what the final size of bin rounds with trailers will be since teams, districts and conditions vary and larger rounds may be possible. It is also unfortunate that difficulty in sales of waste paper have made it impracticable to step up propaganda with householders for better co-operation in separating and bundling salvage for collection. One thing is, however, quite clear and that is that the householders served by the trailer appreciate being able readily to dispose of bulky cartons which will not go in the dust bin. In other words, a better service is being given.

From a refuse disposal point of view, it is obviously good business to sell the refuse than to dispose of it by tipping. At 10-cwts. per cubic yard, 220-cubic yards of tipping space would have been used by the 110-tons collected and the Paper Board Industry would have lost valuable raw material.

Collection of waste paper from shops and factories by three vans was continued, 629-tons being collected making the total sales of paper 739-tons

COST STATEMENT TO THE 31st MARCH, 1963
Collection and Disposal of House and Trade Refuse and Salvage

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Collection</i>	<i>Disposal</i>	<i>Total</i>
Revenue Account—			
Gross Expenditure—	£	£	£
Labour	22845	2739	25584
Transport	16658	3291	19949
Plant, equipment, land and buildings*	11239	2134	13373
Other items	—	—	—
Total	50742	8164	58906
Gross Income	727	8150	8877
Net Cost	50015	14	50029
Unit Costs—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Gross cost per ton—labour only ..	34 11	4 2	39 1
Gross cost per ton—transport only ..	25 6	5 0	30 6
Net cost per ton*	76 6	1	76 7
	£	£	£
Net cost per 1,000 population* ..	871	1	872
Net cost per 1,000 premises* ..	2608	1	2609

* The cost of providing dustbins. *i.e.* £4,601 is included in Plant, etc., and represents 7s. 0d. per ton, £80 per 1,000 population and £239 per 1,000 premises of the Net Unit Costs.

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

Area	5,851 acres
Population at 30th June, 1962	57,430
Total refuse collected—actual	13,075 tons
Weight per 1,000 population per day	12 cwts.
Number of premises	19,173
Average haul	2.25 miles
Frequency of collection	weekly
Kerbside collection (percentage of total collection)	Nil
Total refuse disposed of	13,075 tons
Method of disposal—controlled tipping	100%
Rateable Value	£711,868
Product of 1d. rate	£2,883
Rate in £ (Collection and Disposal)	1s. 5d.

Street Cleansing

All streets were regularly swept by mechanical sweepers the frequency being varied to some extent by the weather conditions and availability of drivers. The long spell of heavy snow and frost brought work to a standstill, but meant heavy work later when heavy loads of grit had to be collected.

Litter continued to be a problem and one vehicle was fully employed servicing shopping centres, bus stops, etc.

Weed killer was sprayed to reduce to a minimum the use of labour for hand weeding.

Details of the work of the vehicles is as follows:

	<i>Number of Loads</i>	<i>Weight Tons</i>	<i>Working Days</i>
No. 1 Bedford Lacre Sweeper ..	160	375	105
No. 2 Bedford Lacre Sweeper ..	173	406	100
No. 3 Bedford Lacre Sweeper ..	266	723	185
	599	1504	390
Street sweepings moved by other vehicles	366	244	—
Total ..	965	1748	390

Gully/Cesspool Cleansing

This work continues to grow by leaps and bounds due to the completion of new housing estates and it is difficult to maintain an adequate frequency of cleansing with the one machine available. The position is aggravated by the fact that there has also been an increase in the number of calls for the emptying of cesspools. One 1,100-gallon Diesel-engined Gully Cesspool Emptying Machine is used for this purpose.

81 cesspools necessitated 255 cleansings.

847 loads were removed at a cost of £922 0s. 0d.

COST STATEMENT, 1962-1963

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Street Sweeping and Watering</i>	<i>Street Gully Cleansing</i>	<i>Total</i>
Revenue Account—			
Gross Expenditure—	£	£	£
Labour	2749	324	3073
Transport	4956	764	5720
Plant, equipment, build- ing, etc.	110	—	110
Other items	—	—	—
Total	7815	1088	8903
Unit Costs—	£	s. d.	s. d.
Net cost per street mile cleansed	86	—	—
Net cost per 1,000 gullies cleansed	£ —	£ 174	£ —
Net cost per 1,000 popula- tion	—	19	—

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

Mileage of streets cleansed	91
Frequency of cleansing—	
At least once daily	4%
Three to five times weekly	0%
Twice weekly	12%
Once weekly	80%
Less than once weekly	4%
Number of street gullies cleansed	2,754
Number of gully cleansings	6,247
Weight of street and gully refuse	2,634 tons

Vehicle Repairs

The repair staff consists of a working foreman mechanic, two experienced mechanics and an apprentice. One man is also employed greasing and on other miscellaneous routine servicing.

All vehicles are serviced and inspected regularly so as to reduce the incidence of breakdowns during operation.

Buildings, Housing and Maintenance Department

<i>Registration No.</i>		<i>Vehicle</i>						<i>Year</i>
EBF	570	Austin 152 Van	..	..	..	..	..	1961
EBF	188	Austin Platform Truck	..	..	..	..	..	1961
FBF	142	Austin Platform Truck	..	..	..	..	..	1961
FBF	143	Austin Platform Truck	..	..	..	..	..	1961
FBF	144	Austin Platform Truck	..	..	..	..	..	1961
481	DRF	Austin A40 Van	..	..	..	..	..	1954
VBF	75	Austin 3-ton	..	..	..	..	..	1962

Highways Department

722	FRE	Austin 2-ton Lorry	..	..	..	..	..	1955
755	URE	Austin 2-ton Lorry	..	..	..	..	..	1958
826	KRF	Austin Van	..	..	..	..	..	1956
932	SRF	Austin Van	..	..	..	..	..	1957
1779	RE	Vibrator Roller	..	..	..	..	..	1959
		*Traxcavator	..	..	..	..	..	1960
*380	HRE	Green Road Roller	..	..	..	..	..	1955
	WRE 752	S & D Gully Cesspool Emptier	..	..	..	..	..	1951
9997	RF	Austin 5-ton Lorry	..	..	..	..	..	1960
	RBF 964	Austin 3-ton Lorry	..	..	..	..	..	1961
196	LBF	Austin 7 Mini-Van	..	..	..	..	..	1962

Parks Department

MRF	452	John Deer Tractor	..	..	..	..	..	1947
6211	E	Austin 2-ton Lorry	..	..	..	..	..	1958
1335	RE	Ferguson Tractor	..	..	..	..	..	1959
MBF	367	Austin 152 Platform Truck	..	..	..	..	..	1961
496	DBF	Ferguson Tractor	..	..	..	..	..	1962
816	NBF	Ferguson Tractor	..	..	..	..	..	1963
87	RBF	Austin A60 Pick-Up	..	..	..	..	..	1963

Farm

*411	ARF	Ford 5-ton Lorry	..	..	..	..	..	1953
*MWP	251	Ferguson Tractor	1954
*YBF	54	Ferguson Tractor	1962

Library

IBF	212	Austin 7 Minivan	1960
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* Denotes Diesel Engines

Cars

MXO	586	Humber Pullman (Chairman)	1952
39	NRE	Ford Popular (Housing Welfare)	1957
170	GBF	Morris Oxford (Farm Manager)	..	..	..	1962

Plant

4 Concrete Mixers	32 Motor Mowers
1 Mortar Mixer	2 Allan Motor Scythes
2 Compressors	1 Lister Stationary Engine
	1 Water Pump
	1 Weed Spraying Machine

OTHER SERVICES**Pail Closets**

There are 33 pail closets—these are emptied weekly.

Ashpits

Only 3 remain.

Public Conveniences

The following conveniences are cleansed daily.

Round Oak, Brierley Hill	..	..	..	Male.
Hill Street, Brierley Hill	..	..	..	Male and Female.
Church Street, Brierley Hill	..	..	..	Male and Female.
Cottage Street, Brierley Hill	..	..	..	Male and Female.
Mill Street, Brierley Hill	..	..	..	Male.
High Street, Quarry Bank	..	..	..	Male and Female.
High Street, Broekmoor	..	..	..	Male and Female.
The Coppice, High Street, Pensnett	..	..	..	Male and Female.
High Street, Pensnett	..	..	..	Male and Female.
High Street, Kingswinford	..	..	..	Male and Female.
Envile Road, Wallheath	..	..	..	Male and Female.
Lawnswood Road, Wordsley	..	..	..	Male and Female.
High Street, Wordsley	..	..	..	Male.
Civic Buildings, Car Park, Brierley Hill	....	..	..	Male and Female.

C. H. CRAWFORD,

*Chief Public Health Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent.*

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